GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1202
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2016
Sefety of Runaway Children at Stations
Kothapalli Smt. Geetha

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railways stations are not safe for runaway children;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the corrective steps being taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1202 BY SHRIMATI KOTHAPALLI GEETHA TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 23.11.2016 REGARDING SAFETY OF RUNAWAY CHILDREN AT STATIONS.

(a) to (c): No, Madam. The Ministry of Railways, in coordination with Ministry of Women and Child Development and National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, have issued a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) which includes a protocol for rescue of young children found abandoned on railway stations or trafficked through trains. The SOP has been implemented on 20 railway stations and it is been decided to implement it on additional 15 railway stations.

Accordingly, Ministry of Women and Child Development in coordination with Ministry of Railways, have set up Child Help Desks/Kiosks at 20 nominated Railway Stations which are manned by representatives of the organization nominated by Ministry of Women and Child Development. The runaway/missing/abandoned children are rescued from stations by Child Help Group comprising of Station Superintendent/Station Master, Station House Officer (SHO)/ Government Railway Police (GRP), Inspector/Railway Protection Force (RPF), Sr. Section Engineer (Works), and in trains by GRP, RPF, Travelling Ticket Examiner (TTE) & Ticket Collector (TC). The children so rescued are handed over to these Child Help Desks/Kiosks and in turn to Child Welfare Committee (CWC) in coordination with GRP. In addition, RPF supplements the efforts of GRP of the State concerned in rescuing the children from trafficking and to ensure safety & security of children at stations. During the year 2015 and 2016 (Upto October), 7575 and 9722 children including runaway children rescued at Railway Stations and on trains and handed over to their parents/GRP/NGOs/CWCs. In addition, Security Helpline No.182 is also operational over Indian Railways for the security related assistance to the passengers in distress.
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